Amendments to the Specification:

Paragraph beginning at page **3**, line **13**, has been amended as follows:

Paragraph beginning at page **4**, line **5**, has been amended as follows:

As a particularly preferable modulate aptamer according to the present invention, a modulate aptamer having the nucleotide sequence represented by the following secondary structure (II) is provided (SEQ ID NOs:9 (left) and 13 (right)).

Paragraph beginning at page **5**, line **9**, has been amended as follows:

As a preferable oligonucleotide chain of this stem-loop structure, one which has the nucleotide sequence represented by the following secondary structure (III) is provided (SEQ ID NO:20).

Paragraph beginning at page **6**, line **26**, has been amended as follows:

Figure 1 shows the secondary structures of aptamer RNA^{Tat} (SEQ ID NO:1), TAR-1RNA (59mer; SEQ ID NO:2) and TAR-2 RNA (123mer; SEQ ID NO:3). The portion framed in solid lines shows the core factor necessary for Tat binding.

Paragraph beginning at page **7**, line **1**, has been amended as follows:

Figure 2 shows the secondary structures of the modulate aptamer RNAs of the present invention (i, DA-1/DA-2 (SEQ ID NOs:7 (left) and 11 (right)); ii, DA-3/DA-4 (SEQ ID NOs:8 (left) and 12 (right)); iii, DA-5/DA-6 (SEQ ID NOs:9 (left) and 13 (right)); iv, DA-7/DA-8 (SEQ ID NOs:10 (left) and 14 (right)); v, DA-1/DA-4 (SEQ ID NOs:7 (left) and 12 (right)).

Paragraph beginning at page **7**, line **22**, has been amended as follows:

Figure 6 shows the secondary structure of an inactive-form modulate aptamer (DA-5i/DA-6i) (SEQ ID NOs:15 (left) and 16 (right)) (A) and an autoradiogram obtained by analysis of the binding of the aptamer with CQ peptide using gel shift assay (B). Lane 1: radioactively

labeled 5'-oligo (10 nM); lane 2: radioactively labeled 5'-oligo (10 nM) and unlabeled 3'-oligo (200 nM); lane 3: radioactively labeled 5'-oligo (10 nM) and unlabeled 3'-oligo (200 nM) in the presence of 20 nM CQ.

Paragraph beginning at page **7**, line **28**, has been amended as follows:

Figure 7 shows the secondary structure of double stranded TAR RNA (ii,DT-1/DT-2) (SEQ ID NOs:17 (left)) (A) and an autoradiogram obtained by analysis of the binding of the RNA with CQ peptide using gel shift assay (B). Lane 1: radioactively labeled 5'-oligo (10 nM); lane 2: radioactively labeled 5'-oligo (10 nM) and unlabeled 3'-oligo (200 nM); lane 3: radioactively labeled 5'-oligo (10 nM) and unlabeled 3'-oligo (200 nM) in the presence of 20 nM CQ.

Paragraph beginning at page **8**, line **9**, has been amended as follows:

Figure 9 shows an analyte-dependent hybridizing oligonucleotide assay (ADHONA). This figure shows the secondary structure of modulate aptamer DA-9/DA-10 (SEQ ID NOs:18 (left) and 19 (right)) for use in ADHONA (A) and the mechanism of ADHONA (B)

Paragraph beginning at page **8**, line **26**, has been amended as follows:

Figure 13 shows the secondary structure of oligonucleotide chain DA13(C-A) (SEQ ID NO:20) of a stem-loop structure having fluorescein bound to the 5'-end and DABCYL bound to the 3'-end, the secondary structure of the DA13(C-A)/DA6 (SEQ ID NOs:20 (left) and 13 (right)) which is a modulate aptamer RNA of the present invention, and nucleotide pair formation between DA13(C-A) (SEQ ID NO:20) and completely complementary DA13C (SEQ ID NO:21).

Paragraph beginning at page **10**, line **1**, has been amended as follows:

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE ~~INVNETION~~ INVENTION

Paragraph beginning at page **13**, line **4**, has been amended as follows:

Further, an example of one particularly preferable modulate aptamer in the present invention, is one having the nucleotide sequence represented by the following secondary structure (II) (SEQ ID NOs:9 (left) and 13 (right)):

Paragraph beginning at page **15**, line **27**, has been amended as follows:

One example of this stem-loop structure is one having the nucleotide sequence represented by the following secondary structure (III) (SEQ ID NO:20).